

Chapter 8.0

Growth-Inducing Impacts

A project is regarded as growth-inducing if it can foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment (CEQA Guidelines §15126.2 (d)). Included in this definition are projects that would remove obstacles to population growth, such as extending public services into previously unserved areas. Growth inducement can also be defined as an action that would encourage an increase in density of development in surrounding areas or encourage adjacent development. The Guidelines state that growth should not be assumed to be beneficial, detrimental, or of little consequence to the environment. [Guidelines Section §15126.2(d)].

Because of the nature of landfills, they are often located in less intensely developed areas. Landfills generally do not introduce features that immediately draw new development toward their boundaries. The proposed project will not expand infrastructure into an undeveloped area thereby providing the opportunity for growth. The project will not open or add new roads, except for the access road into the facility. The project does not require the extension of sewer services or other infrastructure which would normally be associated with residential or commercial developments entering into undeveloped areas. Water for the proposed project will be from groundwater wells.

While the landfill operations are generally not considered to be an inducement for immediate new development on adjacent properties, neither have landfill operations significantly discouraged development. Development around landfills has occurred in other places in Southern California. For example, the BKK Landfill in West Covina, a privately operated site, has been surrounded by new homes. The same is true for the Palos Verdes Landfill and for most of the area along the rims of Mission Canyon Landfill. Therefore, development as allowed by the San Diego County General Plan may occur around the proposed project provided the necessary infrastructures are available.

Construction, operation and closure of the proposed landfill would modestly contribute to area economic growth by increasing personal income through payroll, and through local purchases of equipment, materials, and supplies. Because there would not be a substantial amount of workers (approximately 21) associated with project, the construction, operation, and closure of the landfill would sustain rather than induce additional population growth.

An increase in regional landfill capacity does not directly restrict or promote new development. Waste disposal is not restricted by the availability of local landfills in the same way that sewage disposal and water supply needs must be accommodated by the local systems. Solid waste can be hauled to other distant areas by long haul trucks or rail haul. Therefore, the project would not directly contribute to an increase in growth in northern San Diego County.

In summary, the proposed project will not result in substantial or unplanned economic or population growth. The proposed project is a small part of the total solid waste disposal system which serves both existing and new development which may occur in northern San Diego County. Thus, the Gregory Canyon Landfill project should not be considered growth inducing to the area, but as a project that will meet the ongoing need for refuse and municipal solid waste disposal sources in the northern San Diego County. The proposed project will accommodate the projected growth in the region.